

Information

All tours begin at the Visitor Center. Reservations are required for guided tours. Please wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather—tours take place rain or shine. For more information on Park programs and reservations, contact Lowell National Historical Park, 67 Kirk Street, Lowell, MA 01852, or call **978-970-5000 (978-970-5002 TDD only)**. Groups: Please call for advance reservations.

Accessibility

Wheelchair accessible buildings within the Park include the Visitor Center, Mogan Cultural Center, Suffolk Mill first floor, and Boott Cotton Mills Museum. Tactile pedestrian maps, braille and large-print literature, and printed narrations of audiovisual programs are available upon request.

Directions

To drive to Lowell National Historical Park, take the Lowell Connector from either Route 495 (Exit 35C) or Route 3 (Exit 30A) to Thorndike Street (Exit 5B). Follow the "Lowell National and State Park" signs. Parking is available in the Visitor Center Parking Lot next to Market Mills.

Commuter rail service is available from Boston's North Station to Lowell's Gallagher Terminal. Lowell Regional Transit Authority shuttles run between Gallagher Terminal and downtown Lowell every half hour. *Monday through Friday, 6:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.; Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.*

Visit our web site at <http://www.nps.gov/lowe> or listen to radio station 1610AM when in the Lowell area.



Special Events

The **Lowell Folk Festival**—the biggest free folk festival in the United States—is three days of traditional music, dance, craft demonstrations, interactive activities, street parades, dance parties, and ethnic foods, presented on six outdoor stages throughout the city. This year's festival also introduces a new stage, the John St. Dance Pavilion, an area offering festival participants continuous opportunities to dance to their favorite music. *Park tours are reduced during the festival.*

Friday, July 24, 5:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.
Saturday, July 25, noon - 10:30 p.m.
Sunday, July 26, noon - 7:00 p.m.

Lowell Railroads Day

Saturday, June 13th is a day of special tours, talks, videos, and exhibits dealing with the railroad era and the role of Lowell as a hub of transportation. Learn about the Boston & Lowell Railroad, New England's first steam railroad, and how Lowell became the maker of locomotives for the early railroads. See a restored locomotive and railcar of the Boston & Maine Railroad. Special talks and historical railroad movies will be shown in the Visitor Center Theatre.

Co-sponsored by the Boston & Maine Railroad Historical Society and the Whistler House Museum of Art.

Canal Heritage Weekend
September 26th & 27th

Pawtucket Canal Day

On Saturday, September 26th, enjoy special boat tours through the Industrial Canyon and locking through Guard Locks onto the Merrimack River. Costumed interpreters will guide you through locks and gatehouses on the 202-year old Pawtucket Canal. Learn firsthand about the waterpower that powered America's first industrial city and the environmental history of the river and canal.

July 4th in Lowell

The July 4th Family Fair will take place in the Lowell Heritage State Park from the Sampas Pavilion to the Bellegarde Boat House along Route 113. For more information call 459-9899.

National Park's Day

Join Lowell National Historical Park in celebrating the birthday of the National Park Service on Sunday, August 23rd. In addition to our regular program offerings, we will have a variety of activities and music held all day in Boarding House Park. Come join in the celebration! All activities and Park programs will be fee-free for this festive occasion.

Middlesex Canal Day

On Sunday, September 27th, learn about the oldest regional transportation canal in America. See special slide shows and videos in the Visitor Center Theatre. Take special tours through Middlesex Village in Lowell and the heart of the canal in North Billerica, the future home of the Middlesex Canal Museum.

For further information and flyers about these two events, please call 978-970-5000 after Labor Day.

Lowell: A Working City at Play

This exhibit looks at the pastimes and leisure activities of Lowell residents from the late 19th century to the present. It features photographs and artifacts of Lowell's parks and hangouts, its bars, clubs, and organizations. This exhibit is a joint project of Lowell National Historical Park and the New England Folklife Center. Located on the 1st & 5th floors of the Boott Cotton Mills Museum. Open daily, 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. starting in July. *Free.*

In addition to this exhibit, the following 45-minute programs will focus on various historic leisure time activities. *Free.*

Active Urban Games

This Thursday afternoon program will take a look at some games that were played in parks and schoolyards of the past and present. Group participatory games like Tag, Duck Duck Goose, Simon Says, and Red Light/Green Light will be offered for exercise and relaxation, led by National Park Staff. This program runs during Summer, starting July 9th at 12:00 p.m. following the Boarding House Park Children's Corner Program.

“Where’s the Wildlife?”

Walk with a Ranger to investigate the role of Lowell's Canal System in the leisure time of a working city. Offered Friday - Sunday during Spring and daily during Summer at the Visitor Center and Boarding House Park.

“Hey Jack Kerouac”

This walking tour will discuss the bars, social clubs and diners where Jack Kerouac and the youth of his generation hung out. The tour begins at the Visitor Center. Offered daily during Summer and Fall.



Snibley and his Oklahomiers at May's Tearoom ca. 1947-48. Courtesy of George Polier.

A Time for Play

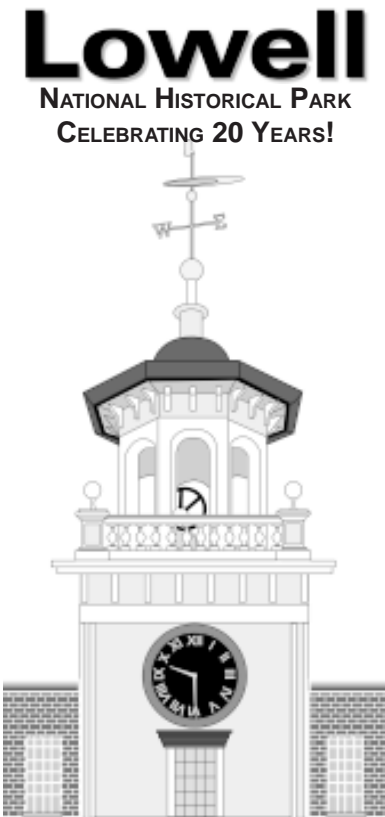
These mobile playstations will provide an opportunity to play with games of “yester-year,” and even provide a chance to make a toy to take home. Offered Friday - Sunday during Spring and daily during Summer at the Visitor Center and Boarding House Park.

“Housework vs. Leisure Time”

This tour will look at the job of the housewife. What kinds of work must be performed in order for a woman to take advantage of leisure time? What was considered leisure activity for women? Did the development of household technology improve the amount of leisure time for women in the late 1800s and early 1900s? Investigate the past and speculate on the future in this look into women's lives. Offered daily during Summer and Fall.

“Biking as Recreation” Tour Series

These two hour bike tours will examine the recreational uses of various sites in Lowell. Travel each week to a different location. Offered on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. during the Summer.



SUMMER OFFERING
MAY 23, 1998 - OCTOBER 12, 1998

Welcome to Lowell

Lowell National Historical Park, one of 376 NPS units in the country, preserves and interprets the history of the American Industrial Revolution in Lowell, MA. The park includes historic cotton textile mills, 5.6 miles of canals, operating gatehouses, and worker housing. Turn-of-the-century trolleys operate, and boat tours trace the city's canals. **Reservations are required for all guided tours.**

Use the following schedule to determine which programs the park will be offering during your visit.

SPRING SCHEDULE
May 23 - June 19

SUMMER SCHEDULE
June 20 - September 7

FALL SCHEDULE
September 8 - October 12

Tsongas Industrial History Center

Great Explorations Summer Day Camp

Boys and girls, ages 8 - 12, discover the roots of the American industrial revolution and explore the connections between science and history through water while having fun and making new friends! Includes hands-on workshops, visits to historic sites, crafts, games, a trolley ride, and a boat trip on the Merrimack River. Each camp runs Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. during July and August. Space is limited. **Reservations required. \$110.00 per child.**



Hands-on Programs for Groups

Bale to Bolt: Weave your own cloth on a four-harness loom!

Workers on the Line: Become a worker on a textile printing assembly line!

Water Power: Build and test water wheels and turbines. Design and build your own canal system!

Invention Factories: Design, build, and patent your own invention!

Programs are 90 minutes and offered Monday-Friday, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. in the Tsongas Industrial History Center. Ages 8 and up. One adult requested for every 10 children.

Reservations required. \$100.00 for a group of up to 30 children.

Visitor Center at Market Mills

Begin your visit at Market Mills, the former Lowell Manufacturing Company mill complex, one of the city's original textile mills. Market Mills houses the National Park Visitor Center, where you can make reservations for tours, explore exhibits, and view the award-winning multi-image video program, *Lowell: The Industrial Revelation*. General information on area lodging, cultural institutions, and dining is also available. Open Spring and Fall, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Summer, 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Also in Market Mills: the Visitor Center Bookstore, and the Brush Art Gallery and Studios.

Boott Cotton Mills Museum

Don't miss the roar of a 1920s weave room with operating power looms! The museum includes the weave room plus interactive exhibits and video programs about the Industrial Revolution, labor and the rise, fall, and rebirth of Lowell. Open daily, 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. *Adults, \$4.00; Youths, 6-16 & Students \$2.00; Senior Discount; Children 5 and under, free.*

Museum Talk

Join a Park Ranger for a 10-15 minute program on the 2nd floor of the Boott Cotton Mills Museum. Learn more about cotton cloth production, capital, labor, mill machinery, and more. Ask a Ranger for daily topics and times. *Free with admission to the Boott Cotton Mills Museum.*

Working People Exhibit

Explore the history of "mill girls" and immigrants in a Boott Mill boardinghouse. The Working People Exhibit, located in the Patrick J. Mogan Cultural Center, tells the human story of the Industrial Revolution by concentrating on the working people of Lowell. Open daily, 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. *Free.*

Suffolk Mill Turbine Exhibit

Off the beaten path in Lowell lies the Suffolk Mill. In the center of this historic mill, restored as an office complex and renamed Wannalancit, you can experience the power of water spinning a 19th century water turbine still used to power the machinery in this exhibit. Open daily, 12:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. The trolley travels to this exhibit on a regular schedule. *Free.*

Exhibits



Also at the museum, check for daily happenings at the Tsongas Industrial History Center, Boott Gallery, New England Folklife Center, Lowell Historical Society, and shop at the Museum Store.

“Play in the Shade”

Take a little “leisure time” within YOUR leisure time to sign out one of our board games. Games such as Parcheesi, Backgammon and Chinese Checkers have been around for a long time. Learn about the history of the game and then sit back and enjoy a relaxing game of your own! Offered daily at the Working People Exhibit.



Canal Tours

Canal Tour Tickets

Pawtucket Canal Tour: *Adults \$4; Youths 6-16 \$2; Senior discount; Children 5 and under free. Reservations Required.*

All Other Canal Tours: *Adults \$5; Youths 6-16 \$3; Senior discount; Children 5 and under free. Reservations Required.*

Combine a Canal Tour *with* a visit to the Boott Cotton Mills Museum and receive a discount!



Pawtucket Canal Tour

Travel by foot and by boat to the Francis Gate and Guard Locks on the Pawtucket Canal. See where Lowell's methods of providing transportation, controlling water, and holding back floods are all used at this site. This 75-minute tour is offered Friday - Sunday during Spring and daily during Fall at 11:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. It is offered daily during Summer at 12:15 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Nature of the Merrimack

This two hour program takes you along the Pawtucket Canal, through Guard Locks and onto the Merrimack River. Participate in water quality testing, locate schools of fish and determine the quality of the river's water. Offered during Summer, Monday through Thursday at 10:30 a.m. Great for camp groups!

Harnessing the Merrimack

Journey along the Pawtucket Canal, lock through Guard Locks, explore Pawtucket Gatehouse to discover how the river was diverted and controlled to provide power to Lowell's textile industry. Travel by foot and canal boat on this two hour tour. Offered Friday - Sunday during Spring and daily during Fall at 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. It is offered daily during Summer at 12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Canal and River Cruise

This unique and relaxing early evening adventure journeys by boat up the Pawtucket Canal, through Guard Locks, and onto the Merrimack River. This two hour tour is offered during Summer, Friday - Sunday and Labor Day at 5:30 p.m.

Trolley Rides

Take a ride on a turn-of-the-century trolley. The trolley provides transportation to the Visitor Center, Suffolk Mill, Boott Mill and other exhibits. The trolley runs daily. *Free!*

